

SENATE BILL REPORT

SJR 8212

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Ways & Means, January 15, 2014

Brief Description: Restricting changes in salaries for legislators.

Sponsors: Senators Hill, Fain, Litzow, Schoesler, Becker, King, Brown, Dammeier, Braun, Rivers, Honeyford and O'Ban.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Ways & Means: 1/14/14, 1/15/14 [DPS, DNP, w/oRec].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 8212 be substituted therefor, and the substitute joint resolution do pass.

Signed by Senators Hill, Chair; Baumgartner, Vice Chair; Honeyford, Capital Budget Chair; Bailey, Becker, Braun, Dammeier, Hewitt, Parlette, Rivers, Schoesler and Tom.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senators Hargrove, Ranking Member; Keiser, Assistant Ranking Member on the Capital Budget; Ranker, Assistant Ranking Member on the Operating Budget; Billig, Conway, Fraser, Frockt, Hasegawa, Hatfield and Kohl-Welles.

Minority Report: That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senator Padden.

Staff: Steve Jones (786-7440)

Background: Under an amendment to the state Constitution adopted in 1986, salaries for state legislators and other state elected officials are established by the Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials (Commission).

Changes to state elected officials' salaries are adopted by the Commission on a biennial basis in odd-numbered years, following a series of public hearings. In 2013 the Commission adopted salary adjustments that took effect on September 1, 2013, and additional adjustments that will take effect on September 1, 2014. In 2015 the Commission will hold public hearings for the purpose of determining any salary adjustments to take effect in 2015 and 2016.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The state budget is adopted by the Legislature on a biennial basis in odd-numbered years, with a supplemental state budget enacted in even-numbered years. Under the state Constitution, regular legislative sessions in odd-numbered years cannot exceed 105 consecutive days, and regular legislative sessions in even-numbered years cannot exceed 60 consecutive days. Special legislative sessions can be convened for periods of up to 30 days.

Summary of Bill (Recommended Substitute): The state Constitution is amended to provide that changes in salaries for members of the Legislature and the Governor take effect only if the Legislature passes a biennial budget during the regular legislative session in odd-numbered years.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE (Recommended Substitute): The Governor is added to the elected officials who do not receive a salary increase if the biennial budget is not enacted during the regular legislative session.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: The Joint Resolution takes effect upon ratification by the voters at the November 2014 general election.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: Citizens rightly expect the Legislature to complete its business in a timely manner. This Joint Resolution provides an incentive to complete the peoples' work on time. Many citizens rely on the delivery of critical state services, and the failure to enact a budget on time leaves those services in doubt.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Hill, prime sponsor.